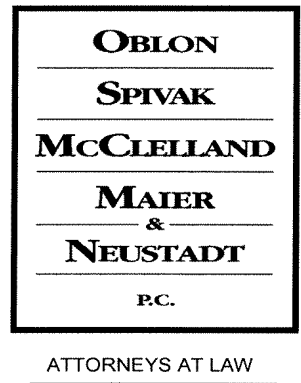


Docket No.: 246026US6

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22313



RE: Application Serial No.: 10/724,102  
Applicants: Kazuhisa HOSAKA, et al.  
Filing Date: December 1, 2003  
For: IMAGE ENCODING APPARATUS AND METHOD,  
PROGRAM AND RECORDING MEDIUM  
Group Art Unit: 2624  
Examiner: Sean T. Motsinger

SIR:

Attached hereto for filing are the following papers:

**PETITION UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.181(a)(3)**

Our online credit card payment in the amount of \$0.00 is being made covering any required fees. In the event any variance exists between the amount enclosed and the Patent Office charges for filing the above-noted documents, including any fees required under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 for any necessary Extension of Time to make the filing of the attached documents timely, please charge or credit the difference to our Deposit Account No. 15-0030. Further, if these papers are not considered timely filed, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 for the necessary extension of time.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,  
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.

  
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